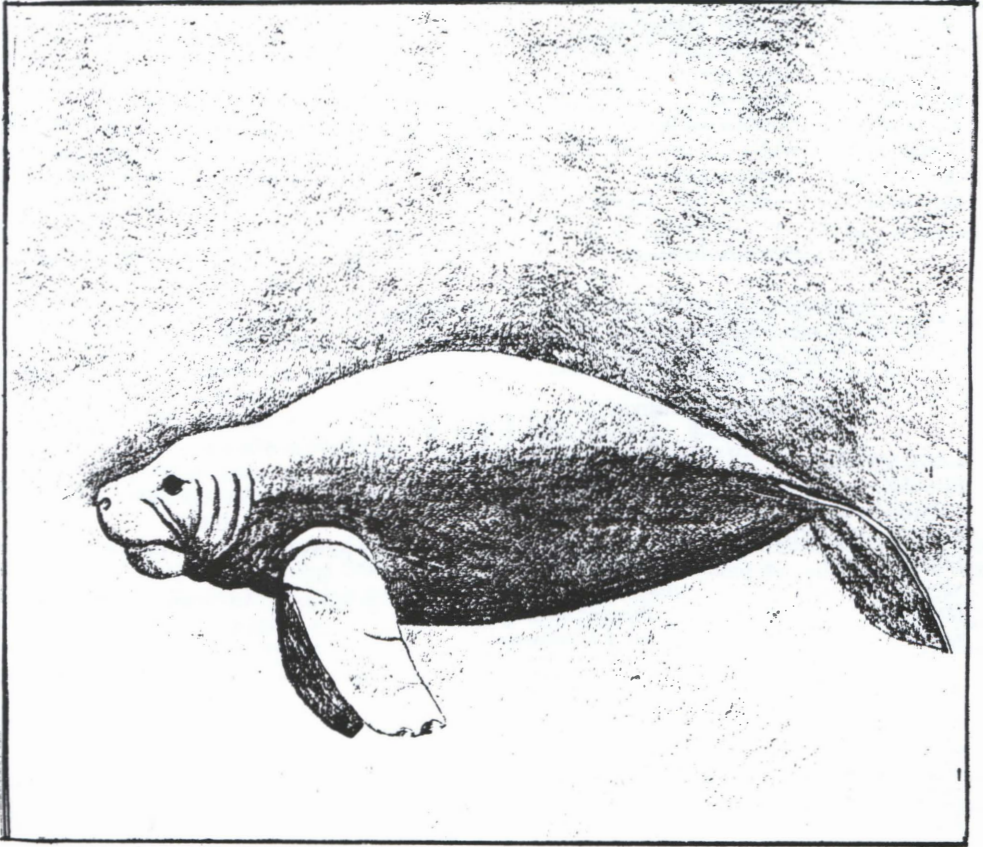


Animals & Men

The Journal of the Centre for Fortean Zoology

Issue Four

January 1995



Mystery Manatees of St. Helena,
The Thylacine; The cryptid most likely to..
Lake Monsters of New Britain

CONTENTS AND CREDITS

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Animals and Men is compiled and typeset by Jonathan Downes on an Amiga A500 using Penpal 3.1 and Pagesetter 2 and I want a PC486 Someone please..

if you want to know more about the monster then you really must buy the record..
 'what do you mean right mind?'

THE GREAT DAYS OF ZOOLOGY ARE NOT DONE

Dear Readers,

This has been a momentous year for us at the Centre for Fortean Zoology, and as I write this the year is only thirteen days old. Yesterday the government announced that they are holding an official enquiry into the British Mystery Cats. We would love to take the responsibility for this after Jan's article in the last issue but unfortunately we think that it is highly unlikely that it has anything to do with us at all...but we can still daydream!

The investigation is being chaired by Junior Agriculture Minister Angela Browning M.P and as I write this Alison is downstairs on the telephone with Ms Browning's Private Secretary, so although we may not have been in at the start of this affair it looks likely that we are just about to enter the fray.

Recently I did a radio phone in show on the subject of mystery beasts on the newly set up Gemini A.M Radio Station. It was hosted by a delightfully eccentric Australian D.J called Steve Browning (no relation), and it was actually quite a success. Hopefully we might repeat the experiment sometime.

In conjunction with the Devon County Council Adult Education Department I am presenting a series of three saturday morning 'Summer School' lectures on Cryptozoology in Exeter over the summer, and assuming that these are a success I shall be teaching a ten week course entitled 'Men, Myths and Monsters in the Modern World' during the autumn. More details of my ventures into the sacred groves of academe in the next issue.

Finally. We are not the easiest people to get hold of especially during the summer months, so for all of you who have tried, but failed to telephone us we now have a 24 hour 'sightings hotline', for people who see anything odd within the world of animals, or people who have specimens for us (and we still want a skull from one of those large grey 'hill foxes'), or if you just want to leave a message for us telephone: 0881 106094 and leave a message. We will get back to you within a couple of days.

See you next time,
Best wishes,

EDITOR



NEWSFILE

EDITED BY JAN WILLIAMS
With the odd interjection from The Editor

HOLY GOAT PHOTOGRAPHED

We return yet again to Vietnam, current hotbed of cryptozoological discovery, with news of the capture of a *Linh duong* or *holy goat*, previously known only from antlers (see issue 3). Sadly, the animal died in captivity, but photographs are exciting interest, and its remains may yield further information. (BBC Ceefax 4.1.95)

WILD MAN EXPEDITION

China's National Academy of Science are planning an expedition in search of Wildmen in March of this year. The plan follows a sighting by 10 engineers and senior railway administrators of a 'Wild Man family' on a little used road in the Shennongjia Mountains on 9th September 1993. (Daily Mail 26.12.94)

MULTIPLYING MUNTJACS

Farmers and Forestry Commission rangers are expressing concern at the rapid increase in numbers of Muntjac deer in Britain. The deer were first introduced by the Duke of Bedford in the late 19th century. Current estimates suggest the population has increased to around 200,000, and muntjac are moving into densely populated areas like Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Wolverhampton, and Central London. They are accused of causing thousands of pounds worth of damage to trees and crops and decimating woodland wildflowers. (Sunday Times 20.11.94)

SUPER DADDY LONGLEGS

A large and hungry strain of leatherjacket - larva of the Crane Fly - is devouring cereal crops in the Scottish Highlands. The life cycle differs from that of the normal crane fly, causing the leatherjackets to appear at the same time as the young wheat shoots on which they feed. Research is in progress at the Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen, where entomologist Geoff Armstrong says the new type seems to correspond to the increase in popularity of Oil Seed Rape. (Daily Mail 14.11.94)

NO HOPPER

A wandering wallaby died after being hit by a car on a road near Teignmouth, Devon in August. (Sunday Mirror 21.8.94)

IN THE PINK

Stratford Butterfly Farm, Warwickshire, are breeding Cabbage White Butterflies in various shades of pink. Manager John Calvert said the colour appeared to be a natural mutation. The caterpillars are a normal green-yellow colour, but the chrysalis is a deep reddish-pink instead of greenish-white. (*Independent on Sunday* 30.10.94)

MYSTERY CATS

Hertfordshire

Snow Leopards are rare in their normal high mountain territory in Central Asia, and even less common in commuter villages beside the A1 motorway, so the one which loped through Welwyn on 29th November caused some surprise to villagers.

Armed police were called out to track down 16-month-old Tara, who had forced her way out of a cage at a private reserve. Tara lived up to the species' reputation for being easily captured. She took refuge in a tree in nearby woodland and was shot with a tranquilliser dart before being netted and returned to the reserve. (*Daily Mail* 30.11.94, *BBC Teletext* 29.11.94)

Kent

A photograph of a large cat in a ploughed field near Ashley, taken by investigator Dave Riches, was printed in the *East Kent Mercury* on 24th November. The photo shows an adult black cat with large ears and a long tail, and is one of several taken by Dave, some of which show the adult cat with a smaller grey cub. (*East Kent Mercury* 24.11.94, 27.11.94)

Staffordshire

A huge black cat, 5 feet long and 3 feet high, was seen by a driver at Stretton near Wolverhampton in early December. Stretton lies a couple of miles to the north of Gifford's Cross, which marks the spot where Sir John Gifford of Chillington Hall killed an escapee panther in the 16th Century. (? *Wolverhampton Express & Star* 7.12.94)

Norfolk

A 'very muscular' black cat, the size of a Labrador dog, was seen on two separate occasions walking through fields in South Norfolk. The fields contained cows, calves, horses, and foals, and witnesses stated the livestock seemed totally unconcerned by the animal.

Something attacked an aviary in the same area, and took two pheasants and a pigeon. Mesh netting was torn out of the ground, and the lower part ripped to shreds. A piece of the netting supplied to me shows what appear to be paired fang marks, with a gap measuring 4 inches between the two teeth.

Cornwall

Reports of livestock attacks continue on Bodmin Moor, where farmer John Goodenough has now erected signs saying '*Danger: Big Wild Cats - Keep Off*'. Further south in the county, landlady Jane Wilson and 3 guests at The Old Quay Inn, Devoran, near Truro, reported a large black cat loping rapidly across fields near dense woodland in August. In the same month a large grey cat like animal was seen by three witnesses at Pendeen, near St Just. Dr Arnold Derrington and his wife Helen described the animal as 'fluffy', with short legs, a light coloured chest, long tail, and ears 'almost as big as hare ears'. It ran away in leaps and bounds. (*Daily Mail* 31.12.94, *West Briton* 1.9.94, *Cornishman* 18.8.94)

JUMPING JELLYFISH

Strange, inexplicable blobs of a jelly like substance have fallen from the sky during a rain shower in Oakville, Washington State, USA. One suggestion is that these are the remains of a school of jellyfish which have 'blown literally sky high'. After the first blob shower three people who had come into contact with the mystery substance complained of bouts of nausea and dizziness, (one was so ill that she was hospitalized), and a small kitten that came into contact with the material from the second fall died nine days later after a struggle with severe intestinal problems. This news item is included, not only because of the suggestion that these mystery objects were jellyfish, (creature falls are well within our sphere of interest), but because we are also collecting data on the possible causes of the mass and usually inexplicable animal deaths which happen intermittently across the world, and what could kill a kitten in the Pacific North West today....*Seattle Post Intelligencer* via COU Di 18.8.94

BAAL IN SILENCE DINES ON VULTURE SOUP

In scenes reminiscent both of the Hitchcock movie '*The Birds*' and more disturbingly of the events in nearby West Virginia during 1967 recounted by John Keel in '*The Mothman Prophecies*'. Stafford County, Virginia is haunted by a plague of '*Black Vultures*' which have begun to prey on household pets and domestic livestock to an alarming degree. The usual '*concerned citizens*' are muttering about children being carried off by these impressively unpleasant raptors, but as far as we are aware no-one has been abducted..YET! This is a little surprising as the species referred to in the report, which is presumably *Coragyps atratus* only reaches a length of 58-9 cm, while the only other species usually found in the vicinity *Cathartes aura* is only marginally different. It is hard to imagine that people in the area would get so hysterical over such reasonably sized creatures and one is tempted to wonder whether the '*big birds*' that used to be such a familiar feature of the cryptofauna of the area during the fifties, sixties and seventies have made some kind of a comeback? *The Columbus Dispatch* 20.2.1994 via COU Di

By the way, for no reason at all the first person to tell the editor who wrote the above snatch of lyric, and from which play it was taken will get an unspecified prize.

HERE KITTY KITTY (1)

When a 65lb Western Cougar wandered into Delores Slappy's back yard in suburban Miami she corralled it like any other pet, grabbing its collar, putting a leash on her and shoving her unceremoniously into a dog pen. The newspaper report goes on to say that these animals are fairly common pets in Florida, but that they require licenses and cages. What the report does not say is that Florida is one of the last bastions of the Eastern Cougar, where about a dozen live in The Everglades, which (British Mystery Cat buffs will be thrilled to know) is one of the only two places within the range of *Felis concolor* where BLACK pumas have been reported. If escapee pets are a regular occurrence then this, possibly the rarest cat subspecies in North America could be doomed because of genetic dilution if not for more conventional reasons. *St Louis Post Dispatch 20.7.94 Via COUDi*

REST IN PEACE

The two captive specimens of the Vu Quang Ox (which our Eastbourne rep insists on referring to as 'the Voo Moo') have died in apparently unconnected illnesses effectively putting paid to the idea of a captive breeding programme..for the moment at least. *St Louis Post Dispatch via COUDi 10.10.94*

HERE KITTY KITTY (2)

The best headline we have received lately is from the St Louis Post Despatch (which as regular readers will notice is rapidly becoming essential reading for those in search of strange Cougar stories. Again it comes to us via those awfully nice people at COUDi, and it reads: WOMAN SLAYS PUMA WITH BREAD KNIFE IN BRAWL; COLLIE, 2 CAMPERS INJURED. It is self explanatory so we won't bother to print the story itself.

THE BEAR NECESSITIES

A 760lb (334kg) giant black bear struck and killed by a tractor-trailer in North Ontario may well be the biggest specimen of its species ever taken in North America. *The Toronto Star 16.9.93*

SPIDERMAN STRIKES AGAIN.

I love stupid and pointless stories. Clayton County police arrested a man found lying on the pavement behind a shopping centre at 'high noon' with a five gallon bucket of large spiders beside him. When he finally spoke to police officers he refused to tell the police who he was or why he had the spiders with him so he was arrested and charged with loitering and obstructing an officer. *The Atlanta Journal 4.9.94 Via COUDi*. Even this isn't as stupid as the story in the same issue of the same newspaper of the woman dressed as a chicken who threw a pie at C&W singer Kenny Rogers in protest against him setting up a chain of roast chicken restaurants. If it had been in protest against him making awful records it would have made far more sense. By the way it is the Editor who put in this and some of the other sillier inclusions in this Newsfile so don't blame Mrs W honest!!

LOOK AT THAT 'S' CAR GO!!!

Tiny snails not seen for 140 years have been found in a Devon river. The smooth Rams Horn Snail was first spotted in the River Leat 1850 by a Miss Bolton, and has now been rediscovered by her namesake David Bolton from the Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter. *C3 Teletext Westcountry News 13.10.94*

WHALE MEAT AGAIN

A Pod consisting of two large killer whales and twelve smaller ones followed the body of one of their number who had died at sea, and swam too near the land whereupon it seems that eight of them were washed ashore on Uist, the most northerly of the Shetland Islands. Seven of them were saved by islanders who physically pushed them back out to sea. The same day, twelve Sperm Whales were beached during a force eight gale on the Orkney Island of Sanday but because of their enormous bulk there was nothing that the islanders could do to save them. *The Times* 8.12.94 *Teletext Greennews C4* 8.12.94.

YOU DIRTY STINKING RAT

Port Health inspectors from Weymouth to Lerwick are reporting that Russian Trawlers are infested with Black rats, prompting fears that this species may become common in Britain again for the first time in hundreds of years since its place in the ecosystem was taken over by the Brown Rat. In the same report the BBC stated that 4% of properties in London, 8% in North Wales and 16% in Eastern England were now infected. *Greennews C4 Teletext* Nov 16th 1994.

THE MONSTER MASHED

Various newspapers reported that after a strong gale near Murmansk in the Russian Arctic, a mysterious corpse was washed ashore on or about the 26th October 1994. The corpse was described as a Russian 'Nessie', and was about twelve metres long, one and a half metres wide and covered with 'feathers' or fur. It was this last point that gave away its identity, because whereas, as most cryptofolk now know the decomposing remains of one of the large Selachians, (usually a Basking Shark), can be distorted by wave action into the familiar form of a 'nessieform' long necked sea creature, decomposing whale blubber, in salt water and especially in near zero temperatures has a disconcerting habit of turning into feathery wisps, and despite the interest shown by the Institute of Marine Biology in Murmansk, who announced that they were sending a team to investigate the corpse most of us at Crypto Mansions assumed that it would turn out to be a dead whale, probably a Sperm Whale...and you know what? We were right! *Westfalenpost* Oct 26th 1994 and October 28th 1994.

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

In the last issue we promised that we would print more details and a photograph of the two headed grass snake that was recently found in Sussex. Unfortunately the grass snake now has a press agent who wants to charge twenty quid for each photo and presumably even more for an interview with the people who own it. This is beyond our meagre budget and is somewhat against my principles (didn't even pay when I interviewed Led Zeppelin-Ed) and therefore we have regretfully had to pass. However as a sort of a consolatio prize we can tell you that a number of newspapers including the German publication Die Welt (6.10.94) reported the existence of a healthy five month old terrapin (either a painted turtle or a Red Eared) with two heads. This unusual beast is residing somewhere in Taiwan.

Newsfile Correspondents: Phil Bennett, Frank Durham, Lorna Lloyd, Diane Jones, Steven Shipp, Heather Thurgar, B Williams, RAJ Williams, COUdi, Wolfgang Schmidt, Sally Parsons, Jane Bradley



Picture Copyright Fortean Picture Library

The Thylacine

The liveliest extinct animal around!

by Alan Pringle

Imagine the scene. In 1982, a Tasmanian wildlife officer, Hans Naarding, is surveying birds in a remote part of North-West Tasmania. At two o'clock one morning he awakes from a fitful sleep in his vehicle. As always on such occasions, he switches on his spotlight in order to scan the surrounding area for any passing, nocturnal wildlife. What he sees is something that most of us can only dream about, for there, caught in the beam, is a fully grown Thylacine. For three spellbound minutes Naarding has a clear view of an animal declared 'probably extinct', in 1936! This exciting encounter is by no means unique and is only one of a growing number of sightings being made in Tasmania, and, more controversially, on mainland Australia and even in New Guinea.

The Thylacine, Tasmanian Wolf or Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) is the largest known marsupial carnivore. Superficially dog like enough to explain the popular name, its most striking characteristic is the series of 15-20 dark brown, vertical stripes ranging down its back to the long, inflexible tail. Hence the name 'Tiger'. Other equally unusual names include 'Zebra Wolf', 'Wolf Opposum', 'Opposum Hyena', and 'Dog Faced *Dasyurus*'. A tireless pursuer of small mammal prey, Thylacines measure up to 160 cm in length, including a 50 cm. They are unique amongst marsupials in that the male has a rudimentary pouch, and they are also famous for their enormous gape, the largest of any mammal. They are known from fossil records to have existed on mainland Australia over 3000 years ago and in Tasmania until the arrival of European settlers in the early 1800's. Persecuted as a sheep killer, they were systematically exterminated until the last wild one was shot in 1930. A captive specimen lived on at the now defunct Beaumaris Zoo in Hobart until September 7th 1936. About ninety Thylacines were held by Zoos between 1850 and 1936, but there are no records of any captive breeding.

Since 1936 there have been many expeditions to various parts of Tasmania in an attempt to determine whether or not the species survives. Using snares, live traps, automatic cameras and hours of patient observation in some of the world's most inhospitable terrain, these admirable groups of naturalists and trackers obtained no hard evidence although many tracks were found and hair and faecal samples collected.

Sightings have been steadily increasing, however, over the years, and many of us still believe that the animal is not lost. Because of the island's vast tracts of rugged mountains, temperate rain forests and steep river valleys very few people are ever in the position to see one. The anglers, hikers and bushmen who do are usually, however the sort of experienced people who know what they are seeing. More often though, thylacines are fleetingly glimpsed in the headlights of vehicles traversing the island's lonely roads.

This happened in 1990 to two fishermen who were driving home through the Cradle Mountains in the north of the island. In the same year an adult with cub was seen not far from the same spot. One of the most recent sightings, in July 1993, involving an alleged Thylacine crossing a road witnessed by two motorists. This sighting, however, occurred in Western Australia, where the species is supposed to have died out thirty centuries ago! There have been some colour photographs taken in Western Australia although scientists are divided on their authenticity and the motives of the photographer.

The latest piece of the Thylacine jigsaw involves New Guinea. Like Australia, the Thylacine is known there only from fossil evidence, but recently one researcher has received reports of Thylacine like animals known to the highland people of Irian-Jaya. The upland country there is similar to parts of Tasmania, but much less explored, and would provide ideal conditions for Thylacines. The people there seem to know the animal well and are NOT confusing it with wild or feral dogs.

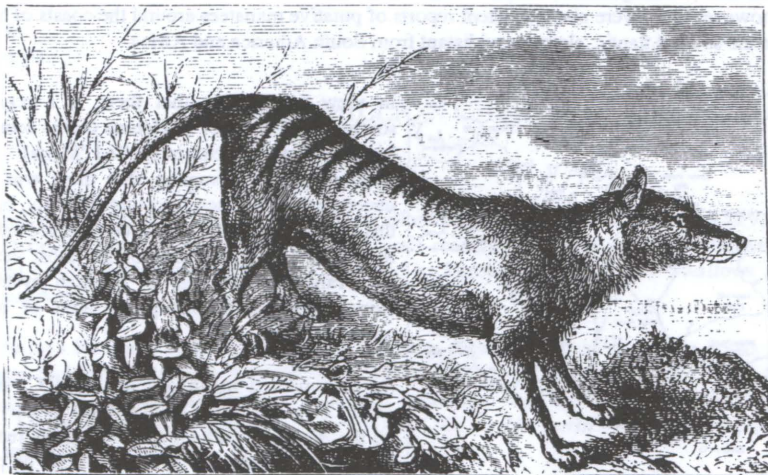
With over a thousand sightings of this enigmatic animal SINCE its official demise in 1936, surely it will not be long until irrefutable proof, i.e good, clear, film is obtained. A dead animal would, no doubt satisfy the scientific community but with a species obviously as rare as this, they need to be left alive, as the population, although recovering, is still very valuable indeed.

Besides, the animal still has official protection in Tasmania because of a law passed in 1936 - ironically the same year that the last known Thylacine died!

Anyone wishing to correspond with the author or who can
offer ANY material on the Thylacine can do so c/o The Welsh
Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd.

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Picture; Copyright The Fortean Picture Library

The Saga of the St. Helena Sirenians

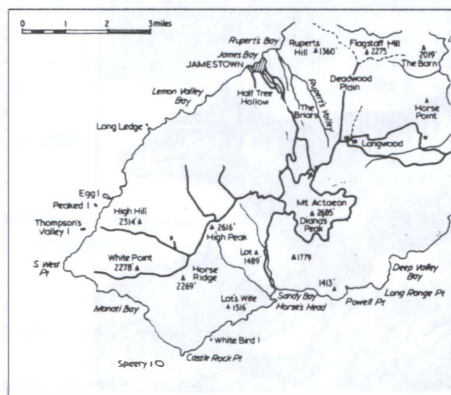
By

Dr Karl P.N.Shuker

(This article was originally printed as part of a larger piece on 'Mystery Ungulates' which originally appeared in Strange Magazine. It is reprinted with the kind permission of the author).

Those highly modified aquatic ungulates, the Sirenians are already well known to Cryptozoologists by virtue of the extensively documented (yet incompletely verified) claim that they are responsible for many of the Mermaid sightings reported from around the world. Other Sirenian claims upon the cryptozoologists attention involve the largest of all modern day species, the supposedly extinct Steller's Sea Cow (*Hydromalis gigas*). still survives, ⁽¹⁾, the exposure of the New Guinea *ri* as the Dugong (*Dugong dugon*), ⁽²⁾, the one time disputed existence of the Dugong in Chinese waters, ⁽³⁾, and the likelihood that an unidentified beast reported from various West African lakes, and another such creature from eastern South America's Lake Titicaca may comprise unknown species of sirenian. ⁽⁴⁾ In addition there is the case presented here, not previously documented within cryptozoological literature.

There are three known species of modern day manatee. The Amazon Manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), inhabits the estuaries of the Orinoco and The Amazon; the Caribbean Manatee (*T.manatus*) is distributed from the coasts of Virginia in the southeastern United States to the West Indies and the northern coasts of Brazil; and the African Manatee (*T.senegalensis*) frequents the coasts and rivers of West Africa from Senegal to Angola. At one time, however there were also persistent reports of putative manatees around the coasts of St Helena, a small island in the south Atlantic, almost equidistant from South America and Africa.

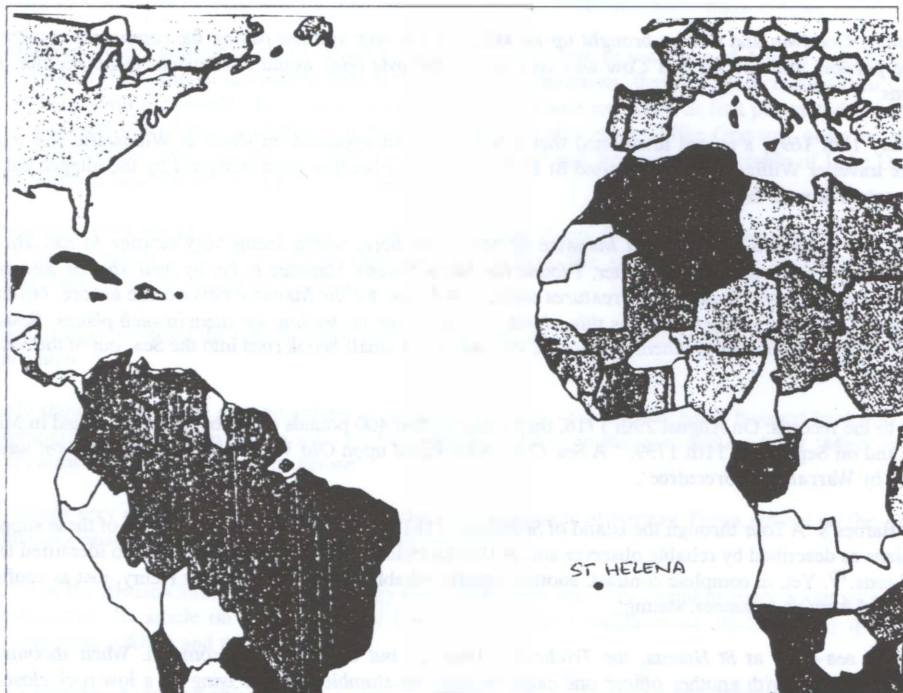


The Island of St. Helena.

JD

In view of the fact that there is a region on the southwestern coast of St Helena that is actually named Manatee Bay (sometimes spelled 'Manati'), one could be forgiven for assuming that there was never any uncertainty about these creatures identity, but in reality this entire matter has still to be resolved satisfactorily, remaining to this day one of the most vexing issues ever raised in relation to Sirenian systematics, as evinced by the following selection of reports and opinions.

As documented in an account by F.C.Frazer, ⁽⁵⁾, in 1655 Cornish traveller Peter Mundy journeyed to India on the *Aleppo Merchant*, and during his return voyage the following year on the same vessel he paid a brief visit to St.Helena. While walking along the beach near Chappell Valley he saw a strange creature lying ashore,



The South Atlantic showing St. Helena in relation to the manatee populations in West Africa, South America and The West Indies.

apparently severely injured. Mundy went nearer to examine it:

'However when I touched it, (it) raised its forepart, gaping on mee (sic) with his wide and terrible jaws (sic). It had the collour (sic) (yellowish) and terrible countenance of a lion, with four greatt (sic) teeth, besides smalle (sic), long, bigge (sic) smelling hairs or mustaches'

The creature attempted to make its way back to the sea but Mundy dispatched it with stones. It was evidently very large:

'..in length about ten foote (sic) and five foote (sic) about the middle. Some say it was a seale (sic), others notte (sic). I terme (sic) itt (sic) a scalionesse (sic), being a femail (sic)..'

In his journal Mundy included a sketch of this animal (reproduced in Fraser's account) which leaves no doubt that it was indeed a pinniped of some type. As uncovered by St Helena resident G.C.Kitching ⁽⁶⁾, the public records of Jamestown, (the islands capital) contain many allusions to alleged manatees or sea-cows (including what appears to be the first usage of the name 'Manatee Bay', which occurs on January 27th 1679). For example, one such record, for August 28th 1682, listed the capture of 'several sea cows', and on March 20th

1690. another record noted the following incident:

'Tuesday. Goodwin and Coales brought up for killing a sea cow and not paying the companies royalty. They desire pardon, and say the Sea Cow was very small; the oyls (sic) would not amount to above four or five gallons.'

On May 11th 1691, a record mentioned that a Sea Cow had appeared on shore at Windward, just a month before traveller William Dampier visited St Helena. Dampier became most intrigued by the alleged existence of manatees around the island's coasts:

'I was also informed that they get Manatee or Sea Cows here, which seems very strange to me. Therefore enquiring more strictly into the matter, I found the Santa Helena Manatee to be, by their shapes, and manner of lying ashore on the Rocks those creatures called Sea-lyons; for the Manatee never come ashore. Neither are they found near any rocky shores, as this island is, there being no feeding for them in such places. Besides, in this land there is no river for them to drink at, tho' there is a small brook runs into the Sea, out of the Valley by the Fort'.

Back to the records: On August 29th 1716, they reported that 400 pounds of Ambergris were found in Manatee Bay, and on September 11th 1739, 'A Sea Cow (was) killed upon Old Woman's valley beach, as it was lying asleep by Warrall and Greentree'.

John Barnes's 'A Tour through the island of St. Helena' (1817), contains a detailed account of these supposed sirenians as described by reliable observer and St Helena resident Lieut. Thomas Leech, who identified them as Sea Lions.⁽⁸⁾ Yet, in complete contrast, another equally reliable observer, Dr Walter Henry, just as confidently described them as manatees, stating:

'We had sea-cows at St Helena, the Trichechus Dugong, but they were not common. When shooting near Buttermilk Point with another officer one calm evening, we stumbled on one lying on a low rock close to the water's edge, and a hideous ugly brute it was, shaped like a young calf with bright green eyes as big as saucers. We only caught a glimpse of it for a few seconds, for as soon as it noticed us, it jumped into the sea, in the most awkward and sprawling manner' (9).

It will be noticed that Dr Henry couched his reference to these creatures' existence around St Helena in the past tense. This is because the last recorded appearance of such animals here took place in 1810 when one came ashore at Stone Top Valley beach, where it was shot by a Mr Burnham. It measured 7 ft. in length, and 10 gallons of oil were obtained from it. Another of these creatures was also reported in 1810, this time from Manatee Bay.⁽¹⁰⁾

Since then St. Helena's purported manatee appears to have been extinct, and as is so often the case it was only then that science began to take an interest in it. After reading an account of this creature in J.C. Melliss's 'St Helena: A Physical, Historical, and Topographical Description of the Island' (1875), in which Melliss claimed that it belonged either to the African or to the Caribbean species of manatee⁽¹¹⁾ on June 20th 1899, zoologist Dr Richard Lydekker published a short review of the subject⁽¹²⁾ which included a number of the accounts given here. Although stating categorically that he did not wish to express a definite opinion concerning whether or not the animal could definitely be some form of sirenian, he nevertheless ventured to speculate that if this were indeed its identity then it probably comprised a distinct species, (perhaps even belonging to a separate genus), as he felt unable to believe that it belonged to either of the species nominated by Melliss.⁽¹³⁾

In 1933, the entire matter was the subject of an extensive examination by Dr Theodore Mortensen of Copenhagen's Zoological Museum. ⁽¹⁴⁾ After careful consideration of the varied and often conflicting reports that he had succeeded in gathering, Mortenson came out in support of the views of Mundy and Leech, that the St Helena manatee was in reality a Sea Lion. ⁽¹⁵⁾ He even identified its species - the Cape Sea Lion (*Arctocephalus antarcticus*) ⁽¹⁶⁾ and believed the matter to be closed, reviving it briefly on March 17th 1934 in *Nature*, ⁽¹⁷⁾ merely to include mention of Dampier's account, which he had not seen when preparing his detailed paper. Certain other records-given here but again not seen by Mortensen-were presented by way of reply to his *Nature* note in Kitching's own *Nature* report, published on July 4th 1936, ⁽¹⁸⁾ but Kitching did not express any opinion regarding the creature's identity.

By way of contrast, as outlined within his report of Mundy's sighting, in 1935 F.C.Fraser had leaned very heavily in favour of one specific identity-once again involving a pinniped, but not a sea lion this time. On the contrary Fraser nominated a true (i.e., earless) seal-a young male Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina*) ⁽¹⁹⁾. As its scientific name suggests, it does bear a fancied resemblance to a lion-like beast, and hence is more reminiscent of a sea lion (albeit one of massive proportions), than are most true seals; but notwithstanding this, it bears rather less resemblance to the creature depicted in Mundy's illustration.

Since the 1930s, the St Helena manatee-or sea lion, or elephant seal-seems to have been forgotten, like so many other 'inconvenient' animals, but could it really have been a sirenian? The reports on file are not sufficient in themselves to provide an unequivocal answer-all they can do is offer up certain important clues. For example, as manatees measure up to 15 ft. long the St Helena beasts were evidently long enough and their description as calf shaped by Henry also confirms with that identity. Conversely, the saucer shaped eyes of Henry's beast contrast markedly with the small, relatively insignificant ones of the generally myopic manatees. Large eyes are characteristic of pinnipeds, as are the fearsome jaws and teeth of Mundy's animal. The same can also be said of the latter's moustaches-but as manatees have a bristly top lip too, this feature is less discriminatory.

If the St.Helena beasts were sirenians, their presence around this island indicates that they may truly have constituted a species in their own right-for as Lydekker pointed out in defense of his belief that they belonged neither to the African nor to the South American species of Manatee, although it is conceivable that a specimen or two may occasionally be carried from Africa or from South America to St.Helena this surely could not occur regularly. ⁽²⁰⁾

As it happens, there is one notable feature mentioned in a number of the reports given here and elsewhere that on first sight greatly decreases the likelihood belonged to any species of manatee-known or unknown. Although they will rest on the surface of the water in shallow stretches when not feeding, manatees do not generally come ashore-yet according to several independent accounts, the St. Helena beasts have frequently been seen resting (even sleeping) on the sands or on rocks, completely out of the water, after the fashion of pinnipeds. Also, the large amounts of oil obtained from their carcasses is more suggestive of seals than of sirenians.

So are we to conclude that they were not sirenians after all, instead merely large seals or sea lions? Yet if this is all that they were, why did the islanders refer to them so deliberately as sea-cows? It is extremely rare for pinnipeds to be referred to anywhere by such names. In addition, as Lydekker judiciously pointed out, just because KNOWN sirenians do not normally come ashore voluntarily, this does not mean that there could not be an UNKNOWN distinctive species of sirenian that DOES (or did) come ashore under certain circumstances. ⁽²¹⁾

And this is where we must leave the mystery of St. Helena's sirenian-that-might-be-a-seal-still unsolved, and

quite likely to remain that way indefinitely, due to the tragic probability that its subject is extinct, lost to science before its identity had ever been established.

As a final comment, it is worth noting that there is at least one case on record that constitutes the exact reverse of this one, because it involves some supposed seals that were ultimately revealed to be sirenians. Sea mammals assumed to be seals had been reported from the red sea island of Shadwan-but as recorded in 1939 by Paul Budger, when the animals featured in these reports were finally investigated they proved to be dugongs ⁽²²⁾ which are indeed native to the Red Sea.

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CROCODILE TEARS

What IS happening in THAT lake with THAT video?
The Editor aims to find out and fails miserably..

We have received so many letters about the brief items in the last two issues about the possible discovery of a large aquatic creature in New Guinea that we felt that it was time we printed a full resume of the story so far.

This matter has been discussed at length in the forteen press since Karl Shuker told a packed room at the 1993 Unconvention that Roy Mackal and a Japanese TV Team have claimed to have filmed a large unknown creature in a volcanic lake in New Guinea.

Everyone has quoted Bernard Heuvelmans in his 1986 :*'Annotated Checklist of Apparently Unknown Animals with which Cryptozoology is Concerned'* which includes:

'An unknown species of crocodile (or is it as has been suggested a surviving Mosasaur?) known as Migo, in Lake Dakataua, on the island of New Britain, in the Bismark Archipelago' ⁽¹⁾

The original reference cited by Heuvelmans is from Wilfred T. Neill in 1956 ⁽²⁾:

'New Britain, the largest island of the Bismark Archipelago is about 370 miles long. A rugged chain of high mountains extends from one end of the island to the other. Several peaks exceed 6,000 feet in height, some on the Gazelle Peninsula, reach 7,900 to 8,000 feet, according to recent surveys. The interior is not well known, and much of it was mapped for the first time during, and after World War Two. While serving with the U.S. Army Air Forces in the Pacific during that War, I once flew over New Britain. From the air I observed a number of crocodiles around the margins of upland lakes. Circumstances rendered it impossible to spend any time in investigation; but at one point the plane passed so low over a lake that a crocodile was frightened into the water, and I could see it plainly. I also noted that the plane was at an altitude of approximately 1,400 feet.

Some weeks thereafter I heard a lecture on jungle survival, given by an officer who had been forced down into the interior of New Britain and had eventually made his way to safety. He mentioned having seen crocodiles about the lakes of the island; he thought that he had observed them as high as 4,000 feet but could not be certain of this. According to him, these crocodiles were shy, fleeing into the water at his approach'.

Neill continues to suggest that...

'...whilst a positive statement is not justified, I feel that the New Britain lake Crocodiles, probably are not C. porosus; they are much more apt to be either C. n. novae-guinae or an undescribed relative thereof.

The first use of the name 'Migo' came in an article in a Japanese Newspaper in February 1972 ⁽³⁾ which claimed that:

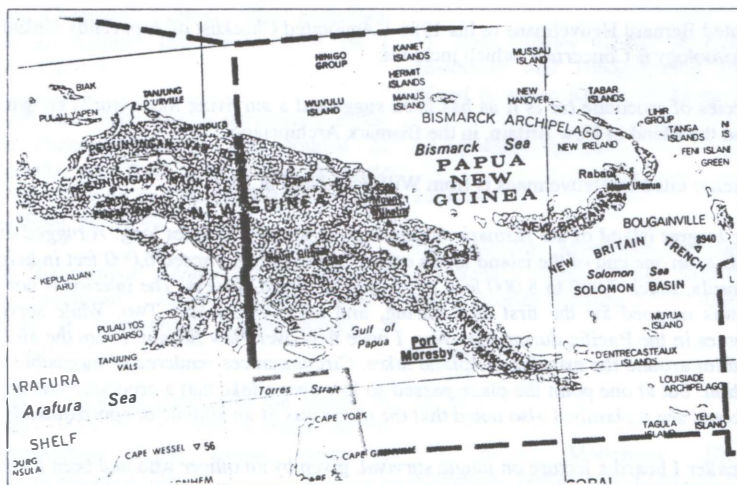
'The chief of a research institute in Omata Town in Mie Prefecture said recently that he will survey Lake Dakataua of New Britain Island this coming fall in search of a monstrous creature rumoured to be inhabiting the lake.

Shohei Shirai, 38, the chief of the Pacific Ocean Resources Research Institute said that he had heard about the monster from some 15 natives from a small town called Talasea.

The natives said, Shirai added, that the monster, which they had named 'Migo', is about 10 m. long, has a head and a neck as long and slim as a horse and is grey in colour.

The natives also told Shirai that 'Migo' has sharp fangs and hair on the back of its long neck. Its huge back is round, Shirai, said that the natives added, its legs are as flat as those of a turtle and its tail, just like that of a crocodile, is rugged.

According to what the natives told Shirai, 'Migo', was first witnessed twelve years ago by a German hunting crocodiles near the Lake Dakataua. Some years later, an Australian patrol officer was said to have succeeded in photographing the monster.



PAPUA NEW-GUINEA AND THE BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO

Lake Dakataua, on Williamuez Peninsula of New Britain Island is located about 50 km. north of Talasea. It is the largest lake in entire New Guinea, with a perimeter of approximately 32 kilometers.

Shirai was also told by many natives that 'Migo' is living between two small islands on the lake, and emerges from under the water several times a year, even in the daytime. Sometimes, the natives say, 'Migo', comes up to the shore.

Shirai said that, all the accounts gathered 'Migo' quite looks alike a mosasaur.

(I make no excuses for having quoted the above article in full but the information is otherwise unavailable. I am indebted to Bernard Heuvelmans for both this article, and the Neill and Heuvelmans articles.)

Bernard Heuvelmans himself wrote to me after reading the news item in issue two of Animals and Men(4). He suggested that if the animal did indeed exhibit the 'vertical undulations' that had been claimed then it would have to be a mammal, possibly the 'many finned' sea serpent whose existence he first postulated in 1965⁽⁵⁾. I received several other letters including one from Animals and Men reader Mike Grayson, querying whether the 'mystery aquatic mammal of Lake Niu-Gini in New Guinea' and the mystery crocodile of Lake Dakataua on the island of New Britain are actually the same creature.

In December 1994 the plot got even more confusing. Fortean Times⁽⁶⁾ which now described a lake monster called 'Migo' which is 'said to inhabit Lake Datakau'. (Note the small but quite possibly significant spelling change), on the island of New Guinea.

The article also described the famous video footage, that Karl Shuker had told us about in June. They describe a film which:

'clearly shows a very large aquatic animal at the lake's surface, with angular head, humped back and a long powerful tail thrashing from side to side. Dr Roy Mackal appears on the tape, declared that 'Migo' is a new sort of animal that he has never seen before'.

This sounds very exciting but the same day that the December issue of Fortean Times arrived on the Animals and Men doormat so did a long awaited letter from Canada⁽⁷⁾

Issue 19 of the British Columbia Cryptozoology Club Newsletter was very complimentary about us and about our publication. Its article on the creatures of Lake Dakataua/Niu Gini/Dakataua started off by quoting our news item from A&M 2 and then continues:

'Your editor was fortunate enough to receive a copy of this video, courtesy of Gary Mangiacopra and to view in the company of a Japanese speaker. The program was shown on the 13th February 1994 on the NHK network in Japan. The host Nadaka Tetsuo, takes us on an explanatory adventure to Lake Dakataua, (not Niu Gini) on the island of New Britain, Papua New-Guinea. The Japanese camera crew is seen arriving in Port Moresby, interviewing an official of the Parks Service, who said that a careful survey had shown nothing unusual in the lake, but that natives still spoke of a strange animal. They all leave on Air Niugini eastwards towards the Willaumez Peninsula which juts north from New Britain like a clenched fist holding Lake Dakataua. After much filming (of the lake and each other), an indistinct remote object is sighted on the lake surface; Roy Mackal, author of 'The Monsters of Loch Ness' and other cryptozoology books is brought forward as an expert witness to assert, looking at the telephoto video of the object swimming in the distance that 'it is not a fish, nor a crocodile; it is one (perhaps two or three), long, unknown animals'.

There are no distinct features visible: the animal would certainly satisfy your editor's first criterion for a worthwhile cryptid sighting: that the object must be unambiguously animate. It would certainly not satisfy the second criterion; that it should unambiguously not be a known creature. In spite of Mackal's opinion, there seems to be other possibilities to explain the moving objects: the marine fauna is rich in marine creatures and the available evidence certainly does not eliminate them all...'

(for those who did not read our news item in A&M 2-our original information was that because of the volcanic nature of lake Niu Gini there was no endemic aquatic life and therefore the animals in the lake (whatever they

(are) were forced to surface more than would appear normal in order to feed off resting water fowl).

The B.C. Cryptozoology Club Newsletter continues:

'...Nevertheless an elaborate explanation was put forward in terms of a zeuglodon, (a primitive whale); we are shown models of the zeuglodon, reconstructed from existing skeletons, swimming around the lake breaking the surface, flexing its squeaky jaws and entering the lake through a hypothetical tunnel from the nearby ocean. Not convincing but nevertheless a very impressive effort. The Japanese team obviously put in a lot of money and effort in this expedition and they should be commended for their determination. It is certainly not by sitting at home, sitting in armchairs and reading books, that one discovers anything. Disagreements about interpretation should not thwart exploration, on the contrary, mystery should feed curiosity and further expeditions'

It must be said however that the two descriptions of the video are so different that it seems almost as if they are describing two different films. Both Fortean Times and we reported that the sightings took place in different lakes on the island of New Guinea whereas now it seems certain, that whatever the phenomenon actually is, it is in Lake Dakataua on New Britain which although it is politically part of New Guinea is geographically a completely different island.

What is also particularly intriguing is the way that creatures which were described in 1956 as a 'possibly unknown species' of crocodile, have by 1972 become 'monsters'. What is certain is that neither of the species tentatively postulated by Neill in 1956 as the true identity of the creatures of Lake Dakataua, neither of them even approach the size described in any of the post 1972 reports. I have not yet seen a copy of the video, and neither, as far as I know has anyone else in the United Kingdom. I have to agree with the editor of the British Columbia Cryptozoology Club Newsletter that the only way to solve mysteries is to actually go in search of the animals concerned, and I am sure that I join with him, and everyone else involved in eagerly awaiting the next stage in what will either prove to be the most exciting cryptozoological even of the century, or an embarrassingly wet squib.

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LETTERS

The inclusion of a letters page has proved to be a great success, and it looks like this is going to be a regular part of the magazine. Thanks for the idea Dad! Opinions expressed are not necessarily the views of the editor.

Dear Animals and Men,

This summer has been rather a slow one in Denmark. I suppose it has been too hot for anything strange to happen - for anything at all to happen, as a matter of fact. Anyway, one thing did happen, that might be of interest. Please read the following summary and let your mind boggle (or do I mean boil?).

An Opera worth dying for.

In the beginning of August tragedy struck at the Zoological garden in Copenhagen. On Friday 5th August, the orchestra and the singers of the Royal Danish Theatre did their first sound rehearsals for their annual opera-concert. This took place in Søndermarken, a park right next to the Zoological Garden. Apparently the female okapi in the zoo was not an opera-lover. It became severely agitated and refused to enter the stable when the gardens closed at night. It didn't sleep all night, and when rehearsals resumed the next morning it went into a state of shock. The zoo's veterinarian tried all weekend to calm the animal down and save it, but to all avail.

It died on Sunday afternoon.

Source: Politiken 10. August 1994.

Best Wishes,

Lars Thomas,
Valby, Denmark.

THREE MILLION CHEERS!

Dear Editor,

I notice from various small references in your excellent magazine that you too are a devotee of classic children's literature. I wondered whether you and your readers have read Christina Hardyment's *'Arthur Ransome and Capt. Flint's Trunk'* which discusses the background to Ransome's *'Swallows and Amazons'* novels in great depth.

On two occasions Ransome seriously considered utilizing cryptozoological themes in books for this series which he later decided not to write. A friend of his, Margeret Renold suggested that the sequel to *'Coot Club'* should feature *'the Death or Glories'* looking for the Loch Ness Monster on the Norfolk Broads, and many years after, Myles North, the originator of the plot of *'Great Northern?'* suggested the plot of a book tentatively entitled *'Coots in Kenya'* in which:

'The Coots-perhaps Tom and the Twins, come out with Mrs Barrable (to Kenya) to visit some friends who

have children. They are to hunt for the legendary Nandi Bear on the shores of Lake Victoria '.....

I hope these obscure little snippets are of some interest,
Best wishes,

Paul Nathan.
Bognor Regis.

THE MONSTER MASH (1)

Sir.

Referring to Mr Morgan's letter (A&M 3) I can name several instances of The Loch Ness Monster (or something that could have been The Loch Ness Monster) being sighted before the 1930s.

a) Saint Augusta was said to have encountered it when he wanted to cross the Loch.

b) When General Wade's men were building the road south of the Loch his men mentioned seeing 'whales' in the loch and another one mentioned Loch Ness being famous for its '*floating island*'.

c) In another instance a diver working on a sunken boat at one end of the Loch, sometime last century I think, signalled to be pulled up quickly. When he got to the surface he mentioned seeing a large unknown creature.

d) Also, Loch Ness, in common with some other Scottish Lakes was meant to have had water spirits such as the water bull (relatively harmless) and water kelpie/horse (extremely dangerous), inhabiting it. A documentary in the 1970's had an interview with someone from the area who mentioned that as a child he and other children were warned not to swim in the Loch because of the water kelpie. Legends of these two creatures went back centuries.

The two books where I obtained this information I am afraid that I no longer have. However one was published by Target and was written by Tim Dinsdale and the other was published by Scholastic Book Services.

Yours faithfully

G.M.Stocker.
Royal Leamington Spa.

THE MONSTER MASH (2)

Dear A&M,

I am what you call a Monster Hunter but would not admit to being pro or anti Plesiosaur theory but keep an open mind about the possibility of a living fossil, but the argument by Stuart Leadbetter must be the worst argument against a Plesiosaur that I have ever read.

I am afraid that the only part which is anti-plessie is being air breathing and the creatures diving ability. This could be overcome by some form of respiration unique to the creatures.

Now to Mr Leadbetter's views on their behaviour. I cannot believe that because of a picture he saw in a museum of two plesiosaurs fighting, that just because no-one reported such behaviour on Loch Ness then a plesiosaur could not be the inhabitant of the Loch. I think that we can agree that a picture of a reptile that is only known in fossil form must leave a lot to artistic interpretation.

Now to their breeding habits. Why does Mr Leadbetter expect creatures that live in virtually unchangeable conditions of light and heat to move on or into an alien habitat to mate. Could they not mate in their own habitat like us and most other animals.

As for the rearing of the young, I don't see why if live young are not born then eggs could not be laid in water enclosed in some kind of protective substance like frog spawn which could be hatched in the Loch.

Whatever the creatures are I think that we must keep a very open mind about them, and we must consider every possibility, even things that are not known to be acceptable to todays experts.

Lastly to the stomach contents of the fossil plesiosaur with the remains of the pterodactyl. Surely it would seem more likely that it was a corpse floating in the water and not snatched out of the air as Mr Leadbetter suggests. Very few animals live both in and out of the water.

I would like to finish with a quote from Mr Leadbetter:

'This assumption is very wrong and is highly misleading to the general public'. This is what his article is with its negative attitude.

We must keep an open mind to everything if we are ever to solve the Loch Ness mystery. This means not making judgements based in pictures in museums or things not fitting into already known categories or species.

This letter is not to tell Mr Leadbetter that he is wrong, but to urge him to have a rethink.

Yours

R.A.Carter
Huddersfield.

THE MONSTER MASH (3)

Dear Mr Downes,

I am writing to comment on Stuart Leadbetter's excellent article about the Loch Ness phenomenon. It is refreshing to find someone who accepts the concept of a 'long necked' creature without blindly believing in the principle of plesiosaurus survival.

Good work Mr Leadbetter.

Best wishes,

Stephen Nice, Colchester.

HELP

This is the section of the magazine where we try to answer queries sent in by Animals and Men readers and attempt to help with ongoing research projects.

In issue one of Animals and Men, we printed an article about oddly coloured frogs which had been appearing in Cornwall. Just before Christmas we received an update from Mark Nicholson of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

'I'm still somewhat in the dark as to the genetic mechanism of the colour variation seen. It does seem odd that one frog without pigment should be orange, while another should be pink or white. It's also strange that some of each colour should have normal dark eyes while others have the red eyes expected of an albino. And what about Red Frogs - are they pigmented or are they pigmented albinos?'

Forty six records of unusually coloured frogs have been received by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust. Of these, sixteen were from Cornwall, twenty three were from other southern counties, seven were from the north of England and none at all were from Scotland.

This shows that although we have no idea what actually causes this strange trend amongst amphibians, one thing which is certain is that there is a definite bias towards this phenomena in southern counties.

'Albinism is a genetic defect which crops up in many animal species, and is present from birth, but there are also cases in which frogs have lost their normal colour through being deprived of light. One report described a whole colony of red frogs trapped in a drainage shaft, and a population of white frogs was once discovered in a boarded up air raid shelter.'

Some of these frogs have actually been grown in captivity from white or cream eggs and tadpoles, although it has been reported that some of these light coloured specimens suffer from spinal defects and other unspecified health problems.

Mark Nicholson concludes:

'If you see an oddly coloured frog, grab it! Keep it in an ice cream tub or similar, containing damp paper for moisture. In a cool place, your frog should be comfortable without food for two or three days while you contact an 'expert', to see if he or she would like to have a look.

If you can get your frog to me, he or she will be used carefully for some publicity shots and then returned without harm. If you are outside my area, I can put you in touch with a local contact interested in such things. We would also be very interested in obtaining spawn and tadpoles from such frogs'..

Mark Nicholson can be contacted on 0872 73939, or write to him at The Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DJ.

We also would be interested in both records and information and specimens of spawn and tadpoles of unusually coloured frogs.

HELP2

JAN WILLIAMS ASSURES ME THAT THIS IS NOT A
CRYPTIC ESSEX GIRL JOKE!

Does anyone have information on two strange creatures found on beaches at Canvey Island, Essex, as referenced in 'Stranger Than Science' by Frank Edwards? He describes the first as two and a half feet tall with a thick brownish-red skin, pulpy head with protruding eyes, and *'feet and legs so arranged that it could walk if it chose'*. The second was found by Rev. Joseph Overs on 11th August 1954. It was 4 feet long and 25lbs weight, with two large eyes, nostril holes, gills, and thick pink skin lacking scales. It had two short legs with 5 toes arranged in a U-shape with a concave central arch.

I would be grateful for anything further on these or any similar reports.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CENTRE FOR FORTEAN ZOOLOGY

- * We still need regional representatives in many areas. If you are interested drop us a line and we can send you a copy of our suggested guidelines.
- * We are always interested in buying books on Cryptozoology, Hong Kong and its animals, Natural History, Folklore, The Occult, and Fortean subjects. Send us your lists and we will get in touch.
- * We are still seeking specimens for our collection which will eventually comprise the CFZ Museum of Fortean Zoology.
- * Carry on sending us your press cuttings. Jan Williams is in the throes of moving house at the moment but when she is settled we will be publicising her new address and fax number for the newsfile. We, at the main office will be getting a fax number, a mobile phone number and also an E Mail address within the next 12 months. Details of our Sightings hotline are in the editorial.
- * We are always interested in purchasing any aquatic reptiles or amphibians especially the larger aquatic salamanders, and soft shelled turtles.
- * We are planning a new feature on exotic pets. Could you let us know of anything really unusual that you see for sale in your local pet shops!
- * We still want details of Fortean Pub signs and Comic books with a cryptozoological theme.
- * We are looking for anecdotal evidence from ex colonial service workers about subjects of a cryptozoological and folkloric theme. We especially want stories on the subject of vampirism and were beasts from tropical africa and the east indies. For more details of our Colonial Service/Expat research project or for details of our other work please write to the Exeter address.
- * By the way-a happy new year from us all

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

There have been a number of, what we in the independent publishing trade call 'cock ups' over the past three issues and there are a number of apologies which are in order.

1. Because of an error by the printers the front page headline of issue 3 'Orobourous is alive and well and living in Eastbourne-see page 12' was omitted. This made the photograph of a bloke with a moustache grinning over a dead worm seem a little eccentric to say the least.
2. There has been a great deal of controversy following our publication of Stuart Leadbetter's article 'Near Lizard but not near enough' in Issue Two. Some of that controversy was caused by our printing that 'thousands' of sightings have been made at Loch Ness. This was our addition and in fact Stuart did not mention such a figure. God knows how it happened but we take full responsibility. Stuart will be answering his critics in an article in Issue Five.
3. We made another typographical error in the letters page of issue three. The letter about West African Scorpion Cults from 'A Retired Colonial Service officer' contained a misprint. The line "The Nightwatchman. known locally as the 'nightwatchman'" should, as all self respecting Gerald Durrell buffs will know have read "the nightwatchman known locally as 'the watchnight'". We are again sorry for our stupidity.
4. The electron microscope photographs of cat hair samples in issue three should have been credited to 'The National Museums of Scotland', but because the editor wasn't paying attention when the newsfile editor told him this they weren't. Thanks to Dr Andrew Kitchener for the photographs.
5. Tony 'Doc' Shields took mild exception to my describing Samuel Beckett as a tedious hibernian playwright. Sorry for any offense Doc, but I for one find your writings far more entertaining...

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NERVOUS TWITCH

Our regular trawl through the weirder bits of bird lore with the nervous twitcher...who was that masked ornithologist?

A BEVY OF BUZZARDS

As you might expect, the winter weather has brought some unusual visitors to our coast.

In October it was reported that the number of Rough Legged Buzzards seen was approximately twice what would normally have been expected. Apparently a booming rabbit population has attracted hordes of the buzzards from the Arctic.

The birds were sighted from the Shetland Isles to as far away as Kent, with the main concentration being in East Anglia and South East Yorkshire. These birds dislike flying over water, in spite of their massive five foot wingspan, and so they crossed the North Sea at its narrowest point. *ITV Teletext 25.10.94. (Some of the birds were still around in January of this year).*

There has also been an influx of Asian Yellow Browed Warblers, turning up all over the place during January 1995 including Scarborough, North Devon and Norfolk. They were supposedly blown off course by the winter weather. *Birdline January 1995 C4 Teletext Greennews 3.1.95*

DON'T YOU JUST HATE IT WHEN THAT HAPPENS?

A rather tragic end to a very rare sighting of a Blyth's Pipit, usually found in Siberia. In Suffolk in November. It was only the third sighting in Britain this century, and the tiny bird was being photographed by keen bird watchers from all over the country when a Kestrel swooped down and flew off with it! *Daily Mail 18.11.94*

IS THIS THE END FOR THE CRESTED IBIS?

An extremely rare Crested Ibis, brought from China to Japan in the hope that it would breed in the spring, has sadly died. The two year old male which was on loan to a conservation group became ill very suddenly. This is a huge tragedy as there are only two Crested Ibis known to exist in Japan. *Newsround BBC Ceefax 13.12.94*

YOU GOT THE POWER

No 'Nervous Twitch' would be complete without more strange stories of bird behaviour. This one is no exception! An unknown bird caused chaos in May 1994 by dropping a Rosy Boa snake over a power station in the Morongo Basin, Southern California. A power line was short circuited leaving 4000 homes without power for two hours. I feel sorry for the bird-it lost its dinner! *Plain Dealer via COUDi May 13 1994.*

POLLY WANTS A **% ^\$&!

A foul mouthed parrot has been 'fired' from his job at the Isle of Wight Zoo recently. A Blue and Gold Macaw called 'Bluey' was part of a six parrot show until he told tourists where to go in no uncertain terms! Zoo managers tried to give him elocution lessons, but to no avail. It is thought that Bluey picked up his language from his previous owner, a sailor. I think that he should sue for unfair dismissal! *St.*

Louis Post Dispatch Aug 16 1994 vis COUDi.

THE A-Z OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY

PART FOUR BY JAN WILLIAMS

BARABOEDAER BEASTS: Carvings on the 9th century Buddhist shrine at Baraboeaer, Java, depict tusked elephantine heads. Unlike Asian elephants, which have only a single cheek tooth, the carvings bear four herbivorous cheek-teeth in each half jaw, comparable with those of mastodons which supposedly became extinct in Java during the Pliocene.

BIRDMEN: Flying creatures with man-like bodies and huge bat wings have been reported in Asia and the Americas. Near Vladivostok, the '*Letayuschiy Chelovek*' or 'Flying Man' is said to reside in the Pidán Mountains. Described as humanoid in shape with webbed, bat-like wings, its howls and 'woman-like screams' were frequently heard in the 1930s and '40s, and occasionally in recent years.

A bat-winged humanoid was seen flying over New York in 1877. Two six-foot-tall winged men were reported at Pelotas, Brazil in the 1950s, and a man-like figure with bat wings appeared in a tree at Houston, Texas in 1953. In 1969 a 'bird-woman' was seen near Da Nang, Vietnam, by members of the US Marine Corps. Witness Earl Morrison described a black figure like that of a normal well-developed woman, possibly covered in fur, with flapping bat-like wings apparently moulded to the hands.

Many 'flying man' reports refer to silver suited humanoids, sometimes encumbered with machinery, and lie within the field of Ufology rather than Cryptozoology. Creatures akin to the Jersey Devil and Cornish Owlman will be treated separately.

BRAY ROAD BEAST: Animal resembling a werewolf seen on and around Bray Road, near Elkhorn, Wisconsin, USA. Witnesses described it as bigger and taller than a German Shepherd dog, with a long thick coat of silver-greyish-black hair, very broad chest, wolf-like head, pointed ears and golden-yellow eyes. It ran and leapt on all fours and was also seen walking and running upright. Dog-like tracks, 4 inches wide and 4-5 inches long were found, and the beast was seen crouched on its haunches eating food with paws held palm-upwards in human fashion.

BRITISH MYSTERY CATS: Reports of large cats date back to the early years of the twentieth century, but have become both more numerous and more newsworthy in recent years. Sightings cover the length and breadth of the British Isles, though public attention tends to focus on specific areas. Famous cases include the 'Surrey Puma' in the 1960s, the 'Exmoor Beast' in the 1980s, and the 'Beast of Bodmin' - current favourite of the tabloid press. The animals reported vary in size and appearance, ranging generally from 3-5 feet in length, and brown, black or grey in colour, sometimes showing spots or stripes. Physical evidence includes paw-prints, faeces, hair samples, territorial markings, and carcasses of prey including rabbits, birds, deer, and sheep.

Some photographic evidence clearly shows non-domestic cats, but debate continues as to the species involved. Free-ranging exotic cats have occasionally been shot in Britain: including leopard cats, Asian jungle cats, and clouded leopards; and a live puma was trapped in the Scottish Highlands in 1980.

Similar 'Mystery Cat' reports emanate from Europe, Australia and the USA.

BOOK REVIEWS

Escape from Extinction by Andrew Kitchener and Kate Charlesworth (HMSO Edinburgh/National Museums of Scotland 4.50 48pp.)

This is an excellent little booklet and unlike most contemporary childrens books on 'green' issues it is neither patronising or annoying! Written in an informative but easy to assimilate style this mixture of (presumably) Kitchener's writing and Charlesworth's excellent cartoons, this book presents a chilling catalogue of extinctions and near extinctions in the form of a comic book telling the story of a Phillip Marlowe styled private detective called 'RIP Dodo'..who is not unsurprisingly a Dodo.

This book is also recommended for connoisseurs of comic book art. The drawings are very reminiscent of the style of Pete Loveday's 'Russell' comics, with bold black and white pen and ink drawings and witty characterisation. Buy it for your children, and then keep it for yourself!

'Monsters of the Sea' by Richard Ellis (Robert Hale 429pp price unknown). I was unsure of this book at first. Subtitled 'the history, natural history, and mythology of the oceans' most fantastic creatures', much of the information within it is available elsewhere, and by the time I was about a third of the way through I was already comparing it unfavourably with about half a dozen book on the subject of Marine mysteries which I have within my own library. Suddenly, however, I realised that although I have a reasonably sizeable collection of books on Natural History, Cryptozoology, The Occult and a wide range of related (and unrelated) subjects, many people (in fact, probably most people) have not, and what is old information to me is new and exciting to most people. I then started to read this book with a new and less pompous eye and I was very pleasantly surprised.

Written in a warm and engaging style, laced intermittently with a gentle but incisive wit this book collects together a veritable treasure trove of information about Sea Monsters, Whales, Giant Squids and Octopi and Sirenians. The section on sharks is particularly interesting, and all in all I think that whereas I would probably not recommend this book to a professor of marine biology, it makes a useful, entertaining and informative addition to the libraries of most cryptozoologists including that of your humble editor who is using it as an object lesson in how not to get too big for his size 12 boots!

PERIODICAL REVIEWS

We welcome an exchange of periodicals with magazines of mutual interest although because we now exchange with so many magazines, as of the NEXT issue we shall only include in our listings those magazines who have published an issue which we have recieved during the previous three months

BIGFOOT RECORD, Bill Green, c/o The Bigfoot Centre, 21 Benham St, Apartment F, Bristol, CT06010 USA This free news service for bigfoot buffs is bi-monthly and has a refreshingly informal style

DRAGON CHRONICLE, The dragon trust, PO Box 3369, London SW6 6JN. A fascinating collection of all things draconian which now appears four times a year

NEXUS 55 Queens Rd, E. Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1BG. Intelligent look at the fringes of science. Well put together and a must for paranoid conspiracy buffs..

NESSLETTER Rip Hepple, 7 Huntshieldford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland Co Durham DL13 1RQ. Rip Hepple is a genuine original. This magazine has been appearing regularly for many years and cannot be recommended highly enough.

CREATURE RESEARCH JOURNAL, Paul Johnson, 721 Old Greensberg Pike, N Versailles, PA15137 USA. An intelligent look at the interface between Cryptozoology and UFO research

TRACK RECORD, Bigfoot Research Project, PO Box 126, Mt Hood, Oregon 97041USA. Excellent for anyone with even the most passing interest in North American Manimals.

DELVE, Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland St, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2M 1X5. Intriguing and eccentric collection of *forteana* and general oddness.

BIPEDIA, Francois de Saare, CERBI, BP65, 06202, NICE, CEDEX 3, FRANCE. A magazine about Initial Bipedalism, scholarly and concise.

TEMS NEWS, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY. An engaging collection of quasi *fortean* odds and ends from veteran UFO buff Lionel Beer, who also runs Spacelink books and is compiling a Crypto booklist. Anyone who can send a Christmas card co-addressed to my pet pigeon is OK by me.

TOUCHSTONE and PEGASUS, Jimmy Goddard, 25 Albert Rd, Addlestone, Surrey two neat UFO/*Fortean* mags. Well produced and collated.

THE CRYPTO CHRONICLE, 50Green Lane, Worcester. General Crypto Mag with a bigfoot bias.

ANIMALS, Freepost Sidcup, Kent. The magazine of the British Zoos Supporters Club. Highly

recommended.

DEAD OF NIGHT. 156 Bolton Road East, Newferry, Wirral, Merseyside, L62 4RY. An amusing and intelligently put together Fortean magazine. Issue three includes a fine section on The Pendle Witches. One of the most entertaining section is the media reviews bits where fortan TV is dissected with wit and aplomb.

CRYPTOZOOLOGIA, Association Belge d'Etude et de Protection des Animaux Rares, Square des Latins 49/4, 1050 Bruxelles. Belgium. A French language magazine published by the Belgian society for Cryptozoology.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CRYPTOZOOLOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER, 3773 West 18th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. V6S 1B3. Excellent and well put together, and they were very nice about us in their last issue.

ENIGMAS, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, Scotland, FK10 2TT A Fine 'mysteries' magazine with a UFO bias.

PROMISES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS 42 Victoria Road, Mt Charles, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4Qd England. Kevin McClure has always been one of my favourite writers in the field and it is good to be able to report that this magazine on 'non human intelligence' is everything one would hope it would be.

FROM OUR FILES

Part two of our rundown of recent Bigfoot reports.

Woody Woodworth was a 0000quarter of a mile from Wildcat Mt Road, seven or eight miles from the junction with Kitzmiller Rd. on September 2nd 1994 early in the morning. He was checking the movement of an elk herd that returned to the area every seven days to feed. From the next canyon he heard a high pitched whistle, quite loud that lasted for 20 seconds or so. Very familiar with wildlife sounds he thought this whistle was peculiar, and not an elk or a cat. The whistle set dogs from nearby homes to barking crazily for about five minutes. (WESTERN BIGFOOT SOCIETY 22.9.94)

"Bigfoot is 20 miles S.E. from Mollada Oregon The first time we saw our Bigfoot was memorial day weekend 1993 on the saturday night at about 10.00. We heard something in the bushes circling the camp. The next morning we went out looking for tracks. My kids went out first, they came running back, saying 'Mom we found a huge footprint in the mud'. Boy did they? It was 17" x 9", a real good print. Then we got to looking and found prints of all sizes.....the trees started moving up high.....About that time I saw a big huge thing run out of the trees and run off. About ten minutes later I saw the huge thing run back into the trees. I knew it was a bigfoot...That night my husband Leroy went behind our tent to the rest room about 9.15 p.m. He heard something big in the trees and close to him. He shined his light on it. It was the Bigfoot. It was about 50 feet from him and brown in colour. After that we all packed up and went home. We went back camping all summer and have seen him and his eyes a lot. There is a family of them. " Sharon Jones (THE BIGFOOT RECORD)> Mrs Jones also saw the same creatures during the summer of 1994, over the weekend of July 1st. It will be interesting to see what happens this year!



Sometimes we discover useful
 Promoters for our band
 amidst the tedious tourists